

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/805,967

Applicant(s)

COLLERAN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Annette R. Reimers

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to correspondence filed on 10/20/06 and 12/12/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21, 24-30 and 35-37.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 09/18/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


EDUARDO C. ROBERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 12, 2006 has been entered.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims in the instant application have not been rejected using prior art because no references, or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose, or suggest a closure member including a rearward end, a forward end, a substantially cylindrical body having a longitudinal axis and an outer threaded portion for threaded engagement with the inner threaded portion of the receiver member, wherein the outer thread portion includes a screw form for a given cross-section of thread through a plane which includes the longitudinal axis, the screw form comprising a rearward-facing thread surface having a substantially straight sloped portion and at least two non-contiguous curve portions, such that a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a root of the thread surface is farther from the forward end than a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a crest of the thread surface when measured along a line parallel to the longitudinal axis, wherein a maximum thickness of the thread occurs

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at a point closer to the crest of the thread than the root of the thread, as set forth in claim 1.

The claims in the instant application have not been rejected using prior art because no references, or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose, or suggest a closure member including a substantially cylindrical body having a forward end, a rearward end, a longitudinal axis and a male threaded portion for interlocking engagement with the female threaded portion of the receiver member, wherein the male threaded portion includes a screw form for a given cross-section of thread through a plane parallel to the longitudinal axis, the screw form comprising a rearward-facing thread surface having a substantially straight sloped portion and at least two non-contiguous curve portions, such that a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a root of the thread is farther from the forward end than a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a crest of the thread when measured along a line that is parallel to the longitudinal axis, wherein a maximum thickness of the thread occurs at a point closer to the crest of the thread than the root of the thread, as set forth in claim 14.

The claims in the instant application have not been rejected using prior art because no references, or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose, or suggest a complementary closure member having a substantially cylindrical body portion and male threaded portion that forms substantially a helical spiral about a center longitudinal axis of the body portion, wherein the male threaded portion includes a screw form for a given cross-section of thread through the longitudinal axis, the screw

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form comprising a rearward-facing thread surface having a substantially straight sloped portion and at least two non-contiguous curve portions, such that a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a root of the thread is farther from a forward end of the closure member than a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a crest of the thread to form a rearward peak of the male threaded portion on its trailing-edge surface at some point crestward of its root, and wherein a forward peak of the male threaded portion is provided on its leading-edge surface at some point crestward of its root, wherein the distance between the rearward peak and the forward peak provides a maximum thickness of the thread, wherein the maximum thickness of the thread occurs at a point closer to the crest of the thread than the root of the thread, as set forth in claim 21.

The claims in the instant application have not been rejected using prior art because no references, or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose, or suggest a closure means for engaging the plurality of noncontiguous wall sections, the closure means including a substantially cylindrical body having an outer threaded portion for threaded engagement with the inner threaded portion of the receiving means, wherein the outer threaded portion includes a screw form for a given cross-section of thread through a longitudinal axis of the closure means, the screw form comprising a rearward-facing thread surface having a substantially straight sloped portion and at least two non-contiguous curve portions, such that a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a root of the thread is farther from a forward end of the closure means than a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a crest of the

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thread when measured along a line parallel to the longitudinal axis, wherein a maximum thickness of the thread occurs at a point closer to the crest of the thread than the root of the thread, as set forth in claim 29.

The claims in the instant application have not been rejected using prior art because no references, or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose, or suggest a closure member including a substantially cylindrical body having a male threaded portion for interlocking engagement with the female threaded portion of the receiver member, wherein the male threaded portion includes a trailing edge having a root adjacent the body and having a crest at a point on the trailing edge that is furthest from a longitudinal axis centered in the cylindrical body when measured along a line perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, wherein the outer threaded portion includes a screw form for a given cross-section of thread through a plane which includes the longitudinal axis, the screw form comprising a rearward-facing thread surface having a substantially straight sloped portion and at least two non-contiguous curve portions, such that a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a root of the thread is farther from a forward end of the closure member than a point on the rearward-facing thread surface at a crest of the thread, and a forward-facing thread surface having a substantially straight sloped portion and at least two non-contiguous curve portions, such that a point on the forward-facing thread surface at a root of the forward facing thread surface is closer to the forward end than a point on the forward-facing thread surface at a crest of the forward facing thread surface when measured along a line

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parallel to the longitudinal axis, wherein a maximum thickness of the thread occurs at a point closer to the crest of the thread than the root of the thread, as set forth in claim 30.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Annette R. Reimers whose telephone number is (571) 272-7135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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EDUARDO C. ROBERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER